GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
TRIBAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3520
ANSWERED ON:08.08.2016
Undernutrition among Tribal Children
Rathwa Shri Ramsinh Patalyabhai

Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has drawn up a roadmap to tackle undernutrition which contributes to one-third of under-five child deaths in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has organised conclaves to improve access to food, nutrition, health and sanitation services for children in tribal areas; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS
(SHRI JASWANTSINH SUMANBHAI BHABHOR)

(a) & (b): Yes Madam, the Government accords priority to the issue of nutrition, particularly in respect of children, adolescent and women of poorer sections of the society including tribal population and has been implementing several schemes/programmes of various Ministries/Departments through State Governments/UTs. These schemes, interalia, include Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) of Ministry of Women and Child Development, National Rural Health Mission (NRHM) of Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Mid Day Meals Scheme of Ministry of Human Resource Development, Drinking Water & Total Sanitation Campaign of Ministry of Drinking Water & Sanitation and Targeted Public Distribution System of Department of Food & Public Distribution etc. The Food and Nutrition Board of Ministry of Women and Child Development is engaged in conducting training programmes in nutrition. The Board also generates awareness through nutrition education programmes on the importance of healthy balanced diets especially through the use of locally available foods, mass awareness campaigns and use of electronic and print media. In addition, Ministry of Tribal Affairs is supporting growing and consumption of traditional minor millets, kitchen garden, consumption of greens and other traditional foods, rearing backyard poultry, fisheries, etc.

(c) & (d): A national level Nutritional Conclave was organized in collaboration with UNICEF in January 2015, in Bhubaneswar, Odisha to improve food, livelihood, ICDS, health and sanitation services among other things for tribal children in Schedule V States. The Conclave aimed to coordinate, contribute, collaborate and commit with the efforts of line Ministries for reducing undernutrition and stunting for India's tribal children. It focused on the districts contributing to maximum load and delivering interventions such as care for women before and during pregnancy, proper infant and young child feeding practices, proper immunization, therapeutic feeding and improve access to safe drinking water and sanitation commodities etc.

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